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DEBORAH FORD JOHNSON: As an American and as a
2 native Pennsylvanian, who is now living in the state of
3 Nevada, it is clear to me that the Yucca Mountain Project is
4 an example of mistrust, misinformation, propaganda, and just
5 bad manners. I lived in Pennsylvania during the Three-Mile
6 Island accident. I've read of many different accidents that
7 have occurred through the United States since the use of
8 nuclear power back in the 1940's.

9 In Rocky Flats, Colorado, canisters were allowed
10 to sit on concrete, outdoor barriers, outdoor landscaping,
11 and leak radioactive fluid into the ground, polluting
12 groundwater. In Paducah, Kentucky, government workers were
13 allowed to inhale radioactive dust without their knowledge
14 for many more years than my children are old.

15 All relationships are based on trust. All
16 relationships are based on truths that can be agreed upon or
17 the result is mistrust. Here in Nevada our state's flag
18 says that we are battle born and that is, in fact, true.
19 The state of Nevada has contributed to any major government
20 altercation in the last 60 years.

21 As a show of basic trust, the people in this area
22 were told that above the ground nuclear testing was safe,

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23 and it wasn't. The people in this area were told that they
24 have done studies on earthquakes in the area since 1977 and
25 obviously the earth is much older than that. Men marched
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1 toward open nuclear explosions and were told it was safe.
2 As a result, their children and their grandchildren lived
3 with birth defects, or maybe they were unable to bear
4 children at all after that experience. It has taken the
5 United States Government over 50 years to come clean with
6 those people, most of whom are already dead. People up in
7 St. George, Utah, certainly solid citizens of the United
8 States of America, were not told about the radioactive dust
9 that was falling on their children, their cows, and their
10 pastures. And as a result, many of those people and their
11 family have lived with the heritage of nuclear fallout.

12 It is unreasonable for the United States
13 Government to expect any citizen of the state of Nevada to
14 accept that this is, in fact, a fair, safe, and just process
15 that we are witnessing now, as evidenced by only one site
16 being chose to be studied. If you're going to have choices,
17 then you need to have at least two, even for the pure
18 spectacle of the circus of it.

19 And in addition to that, that true science that

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20 has studied all of the United States, if you need to bury
21 the nuclear waste, if that's what you decide to do, it would
22 seem to me that these mountains here are some of the most
23 unstable mountains in the United States, as evidenced by the
24 multiple earthquakes that do take place.

25 The idea that we would believe what people here

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1 conveniently want to tell us, because it's good for other
2 states in the United States, is insulting, laughable, and
3 extremely misaligned. The Yucca Mountain Project, I
4 consider a danger to myself, my children, and my
5 grandchildren. Until the government can prove itself
6 trustworthy and not just put out series of propaganda
7 oriented updates, then I would perhaps reconsider.

8 I don't see any legitimate studies being done on
9 what's going to happen if you're wrong. I think that every
10 problem has to have a worst case scenario. And the worst
11 case scenario has to be studied. I haven't seen any
12 evidence that the worst case scenario, i.e., that Yucca
13 Mountain ends up not being safe, that you put the canisters
14 in there and the canisters get water or that the area
15 becomes for some reason decimated, through an act of war,
16 through an act of terrorism, or through a natural occurring

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17 change in the landscape.

18 I fully intend to fight the Yucca Mountain Project
19 through my vote, through my funding, and through my
20 influence on my friends and colleagues. As a sideline, my
21 remaining comment would be that the hearing that was planned
22 for Clark County, a county of over one million people, that
23 they could allegedly find no good site to have it at and
24 then start the meeting in the late afternoon, replete with
25 ringer after ringer from the Department of Energy, who, yes,

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1 of course had appointments in advance of all the citizens of
2 the state of Nevada, but I would like to point out will not
3 have to bear the brunt of the pollution that could take
4 place when they fly home if there is a problem here at Yucca
5 Mountain. I don't think it takes a whole lot more than
6 common sense and to not be connected to this project to
7 realize that there's a lot this project needs to do before
8 it can prove itself safe to the citizens of the state of
9 Nevada, safe to the citizens of the United States, and safe
10 to the generations that come after us. Thank you.